

with national security, and today, more than ever, we must be aware of the significance of this fine balance.

I am proud to honor the courageous Americans who fight against injustice and recognize the strength and vibrance of our country.

FARM BILL

(Mrs. MUSGRAVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, today we're going to be talking about the farm bill. There will be many criticisms of the farm bill, but I proudly stand in support of this farm bill. Rural America is looking to us to make sure that there is a safety net for agriculture in this country.

Reforms were asked for by our Speaker and by people on both sides of the aisle. This farm bill increases funding to food banks when they're suffering—dire need right now—it increases funding by \$1.2 billion.

The farm bill increases funding to conservation programs. These programs are very important to people around the Nation. And we know that farmers are the very best stewards of the land. It provides incentives for them when they implement innovative soil and water conservation programs.

The farm bill increases investment in alternative energy research. We know that one of the number one concerns of America right now is that we lessen our dependence on foreign oil. But I believe the most important thing about this farm bill is that it does provide Americans with a safe and reliable food supply.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3121. An act to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods, and for other purposes.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a proud associate member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus chaired by a great leader, Congressman MIKE HONDA of California, I rise today to join my colleagues in celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Countless Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to our history, culture and economy. We could not be the

Nation that we are today without the contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

My home State of California has the largest and fastest growing Asian American population with 4.6 million people. I represent a wonderful and diverse mix of Asian Pacific Americans who are proud of their cultural heritage and who share a strong link to people in their home countries. We have many festivals that share music, food, dance, culture, art and customs with the entire Bay Area.

On behalf of my constituents, I also want to take this moment to express my great sadness for the recent tragedies that just occurred in Burma and China. My heart and prayers go out to the millions of people who have been affected by these natural disasters.

I especially want to extend my condolences to the families who have lost loved ones. The people of my district and I will do everything we can to help with the relief and recovery efforts during this tragic time.

□ 1030

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES D. BARRETT

(Mr. KUHL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUHL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and astounding contributions of Major General Charles D. Barrett, a resident of the 29th Congressional District of New York, who recently died.

Major General Barrett began his military career early in life, enrolling in the ROTC program while a student at Cornell University. He entered active duty in 1956 and served as a shop officer and company commander for 17 months with the Eighth Army in Korea.

During his four-plus decades of service to this country, he accumulated many honors, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. These medals exemplify the service, sacrifice, and the courage of this hero and represent Major General Barrett as a man who put his country before himself, a man who answered the call when the Nation needed him most, and a man who represented the best that America had to offer.

Major General Barrett served his country with pride, with honor, and with bravery, and there is nothing more noble than a person who is willing to commit themselves to a cause as important as defending our country.

Today I honor Major General Charles Barrett and all the brave men and women who volunteer to fight for what is good and right about our country.

FUND SCIENCE, NOT WEAPONS OF WAR

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today or sometime this week, this House will vote on additional funds for the wars in the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish there was an opportunity for me to vote for funds to support our troops in Afghanistan, who are making an effort in defeating the Taliban and seeking out Osama bin Laden, the perpetrators of 9/11. However, the bills are drawn together; so I will vote "no."

And I feel at this time we know the war in Iraq is going in the wrong direction, but I also know that there are catastrophic illnesses and diseases on mankind and womenkind in our world, and a great country should use its resources for the best purposes, not weapons of war but use our science and our intelligence to find ways to conquer disease.

I had polio when I was a child, and if we had put more money into helping Jonas Salk, maybe I would not have had polio. It was months after Salk's vaccine was introduced.

I lost a friend to cancer last week, Thomas Boggs. There will be a time when people lose friends to cancer that could have been cured if we had put more money into research earlier. Diabetes, Parkinson's, heart disease. In Memphis we have St. Jude Children's Hospital looking for cures to illnesses and diseases.

A great country should do great things. I encourage us to not fund war but to fund science.

ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it was 60 years ago today that nothing short of a miracle occurred. A nation arose in a day seemingly in fulfillment of the words of the Prophet Isaiah. That nation is the State of Israel.

In 70 A.D., Rome sacked Jerusalem, and the diaspora of the Jews occurred. History teaches that when a people are five generations removed from their homeland, the nation ceases. Yet after 2,000 years, Israel was reborn and today has reclaimed its language, people, and has once again become a land flowing with milk and honey.

May God bless Israel. Happy 60th birthday to the State of Israel and many, many more.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I rise today to recognize